



*The Dragonflies were excellent
history detectives this week*

Pre-Prep School News

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Dear Parents

The children are very excited about next week's Nativity plays and we hope you will be able to come and watch. Space will be very tight for parents at the Dragonfly and Cricket play on Thursday 13th so in order to make it fair we have allocated 2 seats per child and any extra family members can stand at the back. However, the good news is that we would like to film the play as we did last year, so you can all enjoy it and show your families for years to come! If anyone does not want us to film their child, please can they let me know. The film will be given to Pre-Prep parents only and we ask parents not to share it on social media.

If any Ladybird parents, whose children are moving into Honey Bees in September, would like to attend our Open Morning on Monday 11th December at 8.30am and haven't managed to reply yet, you can email me at jepe@stedmunds.org.uk to let me know or just come into the Honey Bees classroom. If you know any prospective parents who are interested in a Reception class place for next September, please pass on the details about our Open Morning.

Thank you to those parents who completed questionnaires for our ISI compliance inspection, we appreciated your support. The report will be published in a few weeks' time.

If any children would like to bring in Christmas cards for their friends we will have a special post box in the Late Stay room from Monday and the Dragonfly class will be making deliveries each day.

Best wishes

Julia Exley

Head of Pre-Prep



This Week

The **Dragonflies** were History Detectives this week - and travelled into Canterbury to find medieval buildings. We followed the cobbled streets towards Canterbury Cathedral - and were given special access to hitherto unexplored areas in the cathedral grounds. We were also allowed into Conqueror House - now a shop but originally a Norman house famous for being the meeting place of the four knights who planned the murder of Thomas Becket. After a cheeky hot chocolate in a timber-framed cafe we continued our exploration, looking at the ruined stone castle and walking along the city wall to Dane John Mound. We ascended the mound, wondering if it was the site of the original motte and bailey castle. The children were very clever detectives, demonstrating their knowledge about medieval life and buildings, and their manners were exemplary. Well done Dragonflies - I was so proud of you!

Mrs Sherwin

Rustle...pop...sizzle...tweet...this week the **Crickets** have focused on sound and listening. They listened to 'Peace at last' by Jill Murphy and joined in with all the sounds and repetitive language. They discovered that Elvis the class elf had been hiding in all sorts of places, including a Christmas sack. He'd hidden a key, swung on tinsel, read a book to the dinosaurs and eaten biscuits. The children used drama, sounds and Christmas sacks full of objects to write a story. There was lots of descriptive language such as 'stomping' and 'rustling'. In Maths we have been adding and subtracting and using different vocabulary to describe the symbols. Nurse Allison came to visit us to explain about how we hear. We used playdough to represent ear wax with Hama beads to represent germs. We used water bottles to explore how ears help us balance and created the BFG's ear canal. There are many names we learnt, such as stirrup, cochlea, anvil and hammer.

Mrs Purnell

Christmas has arrived in the **Honey Bees** this week! The children have been enjoying exploring our new winter wonderland small world scene and our Santa's workshop role play area. The children have been excellent elves, using their cutting and sticking skills to wrap all of the presents in the workshop, ready for Christmas Day. The children listened to the Christmas Story and we learned why we celebrate Christmas. Afterwards, they labelled all of the characters in the nativity scene. We have also learned how other countries celebrate Christmas, looking closely at any similarities and differences. We have been continuing to recite the days of the week and the children also discussed what they do as part of their daily routine, on each day of the week. We have been continuing to watch the Ten Town number stories to help us to become more familiar with numbers to 20 and the children are continuing to wow me with their super number formation practise. We are all looking forward to many festive creative and cooking activities next week.

Miss Bodle

Our penultimate week of term has found the **Ladybirds** Class exploring the festival of Hanukkah and finding out about Advent. We have read books and explored interactive white board presentations about Hanukkah where the children were especially interested in the menorah. Much discussion has been had about how the



menorah reminded the children of their Diva lamps they made earlier in the term. The children have worked really hard in Maths to count out the 8 candles plus the 'helper' candle and some of the children created their own wonderful menorah pictures. Much play dough modelling has been undertaken to add the correct number of candles to and the language associated with 'more' and 'less' has been introduced. Towards the end of the week we began talking about the 'real' story of Christmas. The children have been very interested in this and making lots of links with the Nativity story they are busy rehearsing.

Forest School was another fabulous session where the children made their first land art creation. In recent weeks the children have been fascinated to see the leaves falling and this week they were inspired by bare trees on their way to site. The children stopped to admire magnificent horse chestnut trees on the walk to site and once there we set about collecting fallen branches to make our own winter tree. The children worked wonderfully together to make the trunk, then the spreading branches and finally the roots, and were thrilled when they stood back to admire their work. Well done Ladybirds.

Mrs George

Looking Ahead

Tuesday 11th December 9.00am Ladybird and Honey Bee Nativity Play in the Pre-Prep Hall. Refreshments from 8.30am.

Thursday 13th December 9.00am Cricket and Dragonfly Nativity Play in the Pre-Prep Hall. Refreshments from 8.30am.

Friday 14th December 3.30pm Christmas Fair

Monday 17th December Pre-Prep Christmas Lunch

Monday 17th December Children's present wrapping afternoon

Monday 17th December 3.30-5.00pm Pre-Prep disco for Honey Bee, Cricket and Dragonfly classes.

Tuesday 18th December 1.30pm End of Term

Tuesday 18th December 7.30pm Carol Service in Canterbury Cathedral

Tuesday 8th January Return to School

St Edmund's Festival presents A Big Band Christmas - Sunday 16th December, 2.30pm

Celebrate Christmas on a groovy Sunday afternoon with the St Ed's Big Band, singers and readers plus special guests, The Deptford Rivas (Phil Veacock - *Tenor Sax* (MD for Jools Holland); Gary Baldwin - *Hammond Organ*; Alan Savage - *Drums*). Mulled wine and mince pies!

Venue: St Edmund's Theatre (with allocated seating)

Tickets £10/£5 available online from [TICKETSOURCE](#)

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Canterbury**

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